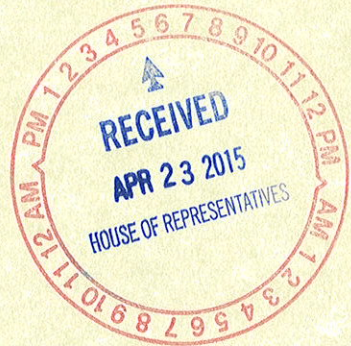


# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



April 23, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

### GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT FOR HOUSE BILL 910

I am signing House Bill 910, "AN ACT TO CREATE THE INFANT MORTALITY REDUCTION COLLABORATIVE AND PROVIDE FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COLLABORATIVE SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COLLABORATIVE SHALL ANNUALLY MAKE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGULATORY CHANGES TO STATE AGENCIES ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS: INSURING THE AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF A HORMONAL SUPPLEMENT THAT IS USED TO PREVENT PRETERM DELIVERIES IN PREGNANT WOMEN, INSURING ACCESS TO PRECONCEPTION HEALTH CARE, REDUCING THE NUMBER OF EARLY ELECTIVE DELIVERIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERINATAL REGIONS OF CARE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES."

As introduced, the purpose of HB910 was to authorize licensed pharmacists to compound an injectable hormonal supplement used to prevent preterm deliveries in pregnant women. As passed, however, the bill only establishes a new task force – The Infant Mortality Reduction Collaborative – to make policy recommendations to the Legislature. Mississippi does not need another bureaucratic entity. It needs action.

While a number of advisory committees already established by law or through state agencies could have prepared these recommendations, I am nonetheless signing the bill into law because it does no harm, has a 2017 sunset provision, and focuses on a critically important topic. I am hopeful their recommendations will lead to improved health for mothers and infants.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Bryant  
GOVERNOR

4/23/15 2:59pm